FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

19 AUGUST 1985

Iran-Iraq War

A Belgian oil tanker was hit 18 August in an air raid in the Gulf east of Qatar, AFP reported, adding that the raid took place in a zone where several ships have been hit over the past year in attacks which Gulf shipping sources attribute to Iran. The attack was reported by Tehran radio and INA, though neither side claimed responsibility.

As for the Iraqi raid on Khark Island 15 August, Radio Monte Carlo cited reports from Bahrain stating that the attack heavily damaged at least 10 oil tankers in the area. The radio said the large oil jetty east of the island was directly hit for the first time since the beginning of the war and was put out of operation. Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, in a speech to Air Force pilots broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio, said the results of the attack exceeded expectations and "not a single plane was scratched and not a single bullet was even fired" against the Iraqi planes by enemy air defenses. Meanwhile, Tehran radio's Arabic service cited a *KEYHAN AL-'ARABI* article stating that Saddam Husayn needs to distract attention inside Iraq from suffering, lack of security, and disorder by "issuing and magnifying such nonsensical allegations as Khark has been attacked." In a related development, the Kuwaiti paper *AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM* quoted a Kuwaiti Defense Ministry source as saying that the army has been placed on an "extraordinary state of alert" following the Khark Island attack, KUNA reported.

Regarding land battles, a military announcement cited by Tehran radio said the 16 August Iranian attack in the Faqqeh region resulted in more than 650 Iraqi casualties, while Iraq in a military communique cited by Voice of the Masses radio claimed the offensive was "crushed" and more than 105 enemy troops were killed.

Iran

President 'Ali Khamene'i retained his lead in the presidential elections, IRNA reported, noting that the incumbent tallied 12,164,366 votes out of 14,200,297 counted as of 18 August. The other two candidates, Mahmud Kashani and Asgar-Owladi Mosalman, received 1,398,845 and 282,630 votes respectively, while 354,456 votes were declared void. Tehran radio announced that voter turnout was enthusiastic.

Some 30 people were injured when a bomb planted in a van exploded in southwestern Tehran 18 August, IRNA reported. The agency also noted that a bomb planted beside the Ministry of Agriculture building in northern Tehran was defused 15 August.

Lebanon

A car bomb exploded near a supermarket on the Antilyas highway 17 August, killing 59 people and injuring around 100 others, Beirut radio reported. The Lebanese Forces Executive Committee subsequently announced in a statement broadcast by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon that the latest wave of bomb attacks in Christian areas will not go unpunished and that retaliation will be proportionate to the crime. Former President Camille Sham'un reacted by calling for the dismissal of Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt from the government, and for a "strong reaction that will make them stop their attacks," the radio noted. On the Muslim side, Prime Minister Rashid Karami condemned the "savage animals" responsible for the bombing in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio, which also cited Nabih Birri's contention that Israel was responsible.

In West Beirut, the Syrians and their allies arrested eight PLO officials on 16 August, according to a Palestinian source cited by the Voice of Lebanon. Radio Free Lebanon subsequently reported a renewed outbreak of fighting between the Amal Movement and Palestinians in the Burj al-Barajinah area.

Libya

Deportations — Tunisia has expelled Libyan tourists and all families of Libyan origin in response to the return of Tunisian workers from Libya, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio announced 18 August. Property belonging to the expellees was confiscated and they were badly treated by the Tunisian police, the radio said. Meanwhile, the Libyan authorities continued to deport Tunisian workers, according to Tunis radio, which said the total had reached 17,613 by 18 August. As for the expulsion of Egyptians, the Voice of Greater Arab Homeland carried a statement by the Libyan authorities announcing that buses have been made available to transport Egyptian workers to the "fictitious" borders between Libya and Egypt. In Cairo, a Foreign Ministry source cited by MENA disclosed that his department is studying Libyan statements on the expulsion of Egyptians, adding that Egypt's foreign minister has promised that action will be taken to safeguard their rights. A Cairo radio commentary accused Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of planning the deportations in an attempt to create internal unrest in Egypt and other Arab countries. In another aspect of Libyan-Egyptian relations, the Egyptian interior minister said he has evidence that Al-Qadhdhafi is planning several operations in Egypt, MENA noted.

Jordan and the United States

Jordan will reject any U.S. insistence that the dialogue with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation lead to direct talks with Israel, Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i stated during a 17 August news conference broadcast by Amman television, though he said Jordan has no knowledge of any U.S. insistence on this condition. The dialogue will have nothing to do with direct negotiations with Israel, he asserted, stressing that there will be no negotiations with Israel before an international conference. Jordan will also reject any U.S. attempt to link arms sales to

direct negotiations with Israel, he added. Noting that Jordan is still awaiting a U.S. reply concerning acceptance of four Palestinian names for the dialogue, Al-Rifa'i emphasized that Jordan and the PLO are not prepared to consider a new list of Palestinians acceptable to Israel.

Al-Rifa'i subsequently received U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, who also met with King Husayn before concluding his tour, according to Amman radio.

Israel

A military judge acquitted Brigadier General Yitzhaq Mordekhay on charges concerning the beating up of two terrorists in April 1984, ITIM reported following the conclusion of Mordekhay's trial 18 August. Stressing that Mordekhay had interrogated the terrorists in order to swiftly obtain information that might prevent further casualties, the judge ruled that the harm he caused them was "not unreasonable."

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's demand that Jews be allowed to reside in houses they purchased in the Hebron casbah was effectively overruled by a tie vote in the Inner Cabinet, with the five Alignment ministers voting against the five Likud ministers, IDF radio noted. Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin subsequently told Jerusalem television that he will oppose attempts to expand Jewish settlement into the Hebron casbah, but he stressed that he would not like to use the IDF to forcibly evict the Tehiya MK's who have moved into a house there.

Afghanistan

President Babrak Karmal sharply criticized the DRA Peasant Cooperatives Union in an address to the PDPA Politburo reported by Kabul radio, stressing that the PDPA is "disgusted" with the lawbreaking, lack of sympathy and care for people, and violation of democratic principles of management in the cooperatives. The Politburo decided that the dismissal of the Peasant Cooperatives Union chairman will be discussed at the next union plenum, the radio added.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 160 *19 August 1985*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Babrak Karmal Chairs Politburo Session 17 Aug ..... C 1
Criticizes Cooperative Union ..... C 1
Karmal, Keshtmand Receive Message from Soviets ..... C 2
Tajik SSR Delegation Visits Badakhshan Province ..... C 2
Sadeqi Conveys Karmal Greeting to Tribal Regiment ..... C 2
Kabul Criticizes USIS 'Propaganda' War Broadcasts ..... C 3
U.S. Proposal for UN Meeting Condemned ..... C 3
Peshawar Bombing Linked to Pakistani 'Oppressions' ..... C 4
Afghan Mujahidin Down Helicopter in 11 Aug Battle *[Jeddah]* ..... C 4

INDIA

Gandhi Visits Punjab; Discusses Accord ..... E 1
Comments on Punjab Elections ..... E 1
Elections 22 September ..... E 1
Governor Assures Cooperation ..... E 1
Longowal Calls Meeting ..... E 1
900 Sikh Army Deserters 'Rehabilitated' ..... E 1
Reportage, Comment on Reaction to Assam Accord ..... E 2
Economic Aid Announced *[AFP]* ..... E 2
Leaders Urge Acceptance ..... E 2
West Bengal Leaders on Accord ..... E 3
Minister To Meet Opposition Parties ..... E 3
20 Ministers Resign ..... E 3
Caretaker Government Formed ..... E 3
Gujarat Accord Reached; Strike Ends 19 Aug ..... E 3
Court Cases Withdrawn ..... E 3
PRC Industry Minister Holds Talks on Iron Ore ..... E 3
Delhi Reports PRC Praise for Gandhi ..... E 4

PAKISTAN

Junejo Receives Vote of Confidence on Martial Law ..... F 1
Official Discusses Glacier Clashes With India ..... F 1

OTHER COUNTRIES

BANGLADESH

Ershad Attends Reception Hosted by PRC Ambassador ..... G 1
Foreign Ministry: No Comment on Assam Agreement *[AFP]* ..... G 1

SRI LANKA

Reportage on Collapse of Talks With Tamils ..... G 1
Colombo Denies 250 Killed *[AFP]* ..... G 1
Tamils Call Off Cease-Fire *[AFP]* ..... G 1
De Alwis on Talks Resumption ..... G 2
Train Hijacking Thwarted 17 Aug ..... G 3
Night Train Services Suspended ..... G 3

37 Fishermen Killed by Tamils *[Delhi]* ..... G 3
Security Forces Expect New Attacks *[AFP]* ..... G 3
Tamils Leave Bhutan *[AFP]* ..... G 3

IRAN

Tehran Bomb Injures 30; U.S. 'Agents' Blamed ..... I 1
Further Details ..... I 1
40-kg Bomb Defused; Iraqi 'Agents' Implicated ..... I 1
Further Reportage on Pilgrimage in Medina, Mecca ..... I 1
Karrubi: 'Enemies' Threaten Unity ..... I 1
Meets With Indian Pilgrims ..... I 1
Afghans Seek Hajj Visas ..... I 1
Saudi Charge Summoned ..... I 2
Pilgrims Vote in Medina ..... I 2
Mahdavi-Kani Sermon on Elections, Murphy's Tour ..... I 2
Montazeri Meets Afghan Sunni, Shi'ite Clergy ..... I 3
Musavi Discusses Future of DRA at Cabinet Meeting ..... I 3
Foreign Minister's Message to Libyan Counterpart ..... I 4
Reportage on Presidential Election Results ..... I 4
Khamene'i Far Ahead ..... I 4
Further Reportage on Visit of Hungarian Minister ..... I 4
Signs Cooperation Document, Leaves ..... I 4
Agriculture Minister Praises Accord ..... I 4
Tehran, CSSR Sign Trade Understanding ..... I 4
Minister Returns, Comments ..... I 5
Iraqi Kurds Launch Anti-Iraqi Operations ..... I 5
Details of Operations ..... I 5
Army Vehicle Destroyed ..... I 5
Ground Forces Commander: War Technology Developing ..... I 6
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq ..... I 6
Khark Attack 'Propaganda' ..... I 6
Radio Iran Cites Employee ..... I 6
Tehran Cites Kuwaiti Report on Tanker ..... I 7
'Ashura III' Operations ..... I 7
Tehran Reports Communique ..... I 7
Tehran Reports Communique ..... I 7
Communique No 2,201 ..... I 8

Babrak Karmal Chairs Politburo Session 17 Aug
LD190802 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 19 Aug 85

[Text] Kabul, August 18, BAKHTAR — A periodical Politburo session of the PDPA CC chaired by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, was held here on August 17.

The session at the outset heard the report on the proceeding of the elections of the representatives of the people to the local councils of the state power and administration.

Assessing the election proceedings, Babrak Karmal said that the democratic and free atmosphere and the respect being paid to the praiseworthy rites and traditions of the people have persuaded the people to elect their authoritative, reliable and trustworthy people as their representatives to the local council of the state power and administration. The constituencies are full of joy and happiness. The active participation of the people in the election is indicative of the unity of the people with the PDPA.

The session also heard the report of Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs of the dra, about the results of the meeting of Afghan-India Joint Commission on Economic and Technical Cooperation.

The report was fully endorsed by the session. The work of the Executive Committee of the Peasant Cooperative Union, the work of the printing and publication department, the transfer and the timely distribution of the newspaper and periodicals to the capital and provinces of the country, were also studied and discussed. The existing flaws in the work of these departments were pinpointed and necessary instructions were given to the concerned departments to improve themselves.

Criticizes Cooperative Union
LD180335 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Aug 85

[Text] A regular session of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee, held in the headquarters of the PDPA Central Committee, was chaired by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council.

The Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee first heard a report on the commencement of the elections of people's representatives to the local organs of state power. In a comprehensive talk on the subject, Babrak Karmal said:

Much fruitful political and organizational work has been carried out by the party and social organizations, state organs, National Fatherland Front, individual propagandists, and mass media in order to hold elections in a glorious way. The commencement of elections in a democratic atmosphere, with complete freedom and respect for people's traditions and customs, has resulted in the people electing their own credible and competent representatives to the people's organs in their localities with their free own will and following broad discussions of this vital issue. A cheerful atmosphere prevailed at the polling stations. The active participation of the people in the elections is a manifestation of the people's unity with the PDPA as the leader and organizer of the society. The Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee has given the PDPA Central Committee departments the task of organizing comprehensive propaganda work among the people in order to fully explain Babrak Karmal's speech and other documents regarding the local organs of the state power and administration of the DRA.

The session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo also discussed the work of the Executive Committee of the DRA Peasant Cooperative Union. The session pointed out that despite results achieved, serious shortcomings exist in the work of the DRA Peasantary Cooperatives Union. The activities of the cooperatives have been diverted from the objectives of strengthening ties with and providing assistance to the peasants, participation in the task of stabilizing prices, supplying residents with essential needs, and improvement in the workers' welfare, and have been mostly directed toward making profits. The Executive Committee of Peasant Cooperatives Union and its local organs are not considering the demands and needs of the villagers. Their purchases and distribution of industrial goods have been unsatisfactory. Consumer cooperatives do not have the list of goods available in central warehouses. The distribution of goods has been carried out without considering the members of the cooperatives and without giving priority to the backward and most needy regions. In general, goods are being supplied to regions where they are of no use. State credits have not been used in the interests of the cooperatives nor in the service of the deserving inhabitants, and agricultural produce has not been purchased from the true producers. State assistance to cotton-growers has not been satisfactorily organized.

The single-price policy still does not exist in cooperatives' trade, and the material assets of the cooperatives are not being stored properly, even in Kabul city stores; this results in huge waste.

Babrak Karmal, making conclusions from the facts presented in the session, pointed out that the party is disgusted at all the instances of lawbreaking, lack of sympathy and lack of care for people, and violation of democratic principles of management in the cooperatives, and that it would not remain indifferent towards those who committed actions which impair the realization of the gains of the revolution and the expansion of its social pillars.

Babrak Karmal added that it is the duty of cooperatives and their unions to follow the policy of the PDPA for improving the toilers' welfare. Cooperatives should be the link between the peasants and other toilers and the revolutionary authorities. They should consolidate the links between the cities and villages, and should play an increasing role in price control, supplying residents with essential needs, further justifying the relation between production and distribution of material resources. The cooperatives are dutybound to have a serious, exacting, and [words indistinct] attitude toward state assistance to peasants and other needy sections of the society. Public and cooperatives property should be carefully safeguarded as the material pillars of the workers' welfare. Those committing embezzlement against cooperatives and public property and those who damage this property through carelessness and lack of discipline or by not properly organizing

the effective distribution of state assistance to peasants and other needy citizens should be dealt with according to the law.

We consider such actions as crimes against the public interest and economic sabotage which would be most seriously reprimanded.

The Politburo regarded the work of the Executive Committee of the Cooperatives Union as unsatisfactory, and, considering the principle of collective leadership and individual responsibility, regarded Nurzay's presence in his post [Abdol Qayum Nurzay, chairman of the DRA Peasant Cooperatives Union] as not benefifical to the future activities of cooperatives, and decided that his dismissal should be discussed at the plenum of the DRA Peasant Cooperatives Union.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo called on the leadership of the Cooperatives Union and the primary party organization to adopt practical measures with regard to fundamental improvement in the activities of the Peasant Cooperatives Union, improving its role in the realization of the land and water reform, and expanding the level of agriculture. It was especially stressed that the Peasant Cooperatives Union should devote full attention to providing people with essential goods. The PDPA Central Committee Politburo approved a resolution in this regard.

The session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo also discussed the subject of the printing, publication, delivery, and timely distribution of newspapers, journals, magazines, and books in the capital and provinces.

Speaking on this subject, Babrak Karmal said that the lack of timely deliveries of newspapers, journals, and magazines throughout the country by the party and state organs is regarded as a serious shortcoming. Serious and sympathetic attention should be paid to this issue from both technical and political viewpoints. The work of party and state organs should be further coordinated and a regular distribution system set up. No excuses or carelessness should be allowed in this regard.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo, fully approving Babrak Karmal's speech, gave the task of solving this fundamental problem to the responsible departments of the PDPA Central Committee, the Ministry of Communications, the Ministries of Transport and Finance, the State Committee for Printing and Publication, and the General Department of Civil Aviation.

The session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo also heard and approved a report by Shah Mohammad Dost, minister of foreign affairs, who led a delegation to India to participate in the session of the joint Afghan-Indian Commission for Technical Cooperation.

The Secretariat of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo reports that the session of the PDPA Central Committee also adopted a decision regarding a number of urgent national and international issues.

Karmal, Keshtmand Receive Message from Soviets

LD190811 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0509 GMT 19 Aug 85

[Text] Kabul, August 18, BAKHTAR: A congratulatory message addressed to Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, as well as Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the Politburo of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA has been received from the Soviet leaders on the occasion of 66th independence anniversary of Afghanistan.

The message says in part that the gaining of independence and sovereignty, which took place as a result of arduous and long struggle of the people of Afghanistan against the colonialists, opened a new chapter in the history of the country.

The good neighbourly relations, founded by V.I. Lenin between the two countries, was successfully developing on the basis of equality, respect to the national integrity and noninterference in the internal affairs of each other, the message notes.

After the victory of the April Revolution the relations between the two countries are placed on a new qualitative basis. The relations are dynamically developing in the interests of the two countries. The two countries are confidently forging ahead on the path of friendship, good understanding and close cooperation, the message stresses.

The message emphasises that the USSR fully supports the truthful cause of the people of Afghanistan who are decisively resisting against the military interferences of imperialism and reaction.

Tajik SSR Delegation Visits Badakhshan Province

LD180220 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 17 Aug 85

[Excerpts] A party and state delegation from Tajik SSR yesterday held separate meetings with peasants, members of agricultural cooperatives, ulema and clergy, and citizens in Feyzabad, capital of Badakhshan Province.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports from Feyzabad that the party and state delegation of Tajik SSR led by (Abdollah Dekov Janbeg) recently arrived in Badakhshan Province for a friendly and official visit.

Sadeqi Conveys Karmal Greeting to Tribal Regiment

LD162057 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Aug 85

[Text] Warm greetings and best wishes from Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, were conveyed yesterday to the personnel of Zazi Maydan's tribal regiment by Major General Mohammad Yasin Sadeqi, secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and head of the political affairs of the Army, which were warmly welcomed.

During a meeting between the personnel of Zazi Maydan's tribal regiment and head of the political affairs of the Army, one person on behalf of the regiment pledged to defend the gains of the Sowr Revolution and of its new development stage to the last breath.

Maj Gen Yasin Sadeqi yesterday went to Khost major district and visited various units and companies. He also visited Aka Khel village, Zazi Maydan subdistrict, and returned to Kabul yesterday evening.

Kabul Criticizes USIS 'Propaganda' War Broadcasts

LD170324 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 16 Aug 85

[Text] Reports have recently been received from Washington saying, first, that the Voice of America has increased its broadcasts in Pashto and Dari to Afghanistan; second, that the U.S. Congress has approved an amendment for establishing another propaganda and subversive radio station called Free Afghanistan; and third, that the U.S. Information Agency has received $500,000 from the U.S. authorities to familiarize Afghan counterrevolutionary elements with propaganda tactics. All these facts demonstrate that the organizers of the undeclared war against Afghanistan were not able to push back developments in Afghanistan through their terrorist hired bands who are armed with the most modern deadly weapons. Therefore, in Washington they resorted to another weapon, that is, to lies, and began a psychological war against Afghanistan and its people, who are busy making a new life.

The methods that the organizers of this psychological war have adopted are [word indistinct] weapons, that is, very inaccurate information in a very hostile manner. The objectives of the false and poisonous broadcasts of all these radios, such as the Voice of America or the radio stations which are operating in Europe, are the same; that is, to portray the murderous CIA mercenaries who are sowing the seeds of (?death) and terror in Afghanistan as patriots, and to describe them as fighters by (?specifying their) Afghan identity.

The anti-Afghan ideologues avoid confessing to the fact that it is the ruling circles in the United States who are planning and guiding bandit-like attacks inside Afghanistan. Those who are directly responsible for damages and losses in this country are none other than these American mercenaries, or, as the Western propagandists would have it, Afghan patriots, who are responsible for destroying over 1,800 schools and 40 hospitals, burning more than 900 agricultural cooperatives, and killing more than 200 clergy and thousands of innocent Afghans.

The U.S. Information Agency, which is the foreign policy propaganda instrument of that country, for a long time has been the headquarters and center for fabrications and poison-spreading. Now this center wants to (?use) its experiences against the revolution in Afghanistan. It is also not a secret that the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad occasionally organizes briefings by personnel of the CIA and the U.S. Information Agency which are also attended by the representatives of the Afghanistan Information Center in Pakistan, whose objectives are to make accusations against the Afghan revolution and to distort the so-called Afghanistan problem.

However, all the fabrications about Afghanistan quickly fade away in the face of the Afghan people's unshakable will in defense of the gains of the revolution and the continuation of the process of building a new life.

U.S. Proposal for UN Meeting Condemned

LD180254 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 0735 GMT 17 Aug 85

[Text] The United States is considering another provocation against the DRA, this time at the United Nations.

According to a report in the U.S. press, a group of congressmen have sent a note to the U.S. representative in the United Nations recommending that the so-called Afghanistan issue be discussed at the UN General Assembly meeting which is to be held this autumn.

The aim of this provocative attempt to exploit the UN forum is to justify the bloody crimes of the counterrevolution in Afghanistan through the use of various forms of propaganda and to provide a legal pretext for the clear policy of intervention by the U.S. Administration in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. This policy has resulted in the undeclared war of Washington against the DRA and the bloody aggression of the counterrevolution, which is being sent illegaly into Afghan territory by the CIA.

The American politicians have set out to isolate the popular and democratic revolution of Afghanistan; they exploit the counterrevolution in an effort to put into power their servants in Afghanistan, thereby using Afghanistan to advance their imperialistic aims as in Pakistan, South Korea, South Africa, and Chile.

If the so-called Afghanistan issue is to be discussed in the UN General Assembly, it is necessary in the first instance to discuss the U.S. aggression against the people of Afghanistan. It is the Government of the United States and some other of its NATO allies who shoulder the direct responsibility for the counterrevolutionary crimes committed in Afghanistan and bankrolled by the CIA.

These mercenaries have burned and destroyed 1,814 schools, 904 peasant cooperatives, and 40 hospitals, and have killed thousands of innocent people. At the same time, the U.S. Government continues to finance the bloody criminal operations and to supply arms to these mercenaries. The Pentagon this year alone will spend $10 million on direct military assistance to the Afghan counterrevolution. In addition to this assistance, there are plans to allocate $15 million in the name of so-called humanitarian assistance in the next fiscal year for the Afghan counterrevolution within the U.S. foreign aid bill.

The U.S. Administration has waged a psychological and propaganda war against the DRA and other countries who follow an independent policy in order to justify its support for the mer-

cenary bands. The U.S. Congress at the start of this month approved an additional allocation of $500,000 for these purposes to the U.S. Information Agency. The U.S. Information Agency uses these funds to spread the fabrications of the counterrevolution, using the Western mass media, concerning the bloody crimes of these reactionary and imperialist mercenaries in a manner which suits Washington. Their aim is also to spread some of these fabrications at the UN forum using the U.S. Administration's representatives.

Peshawar Bombing Linked to Pakistani 'Oppressions'
LD190746 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0506 GMT 19 Aug 85

[Text] Kabul, August 18, BAKHTAR — Fifteen people were killed and another four injured as a result of two bomb explosions in Sada of Peshawar city.

According to reports among the victims of the incident the Afghan fugitives were also included.

As a consequence of ever-increasing oppressions of the military regime of Pakistan the eruption of such incidents is a normal issue in that country.

Afghan Mujahidin Down Helicopter in 11 Aug Battle
GF180810 Jeddah Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] The Afghan mujahidin killed 30 troops of the ruling regime in Kabul, which is supported by Soviet occupation forces, during a battle in Samangan. The mujahidin had besieged this place for a long time. Mujahidin sources said that during the battle, which took place on 11 August, numerous living quarters of Soviet military advisers in the area were destroyed. A helicopter which was being used to transport reinforcements to the government forces was downed.

The mujahidin also destroyed two government military positions in Bagh in Afghanistan on 30 July and killed 13 troops, including 3 officers.

The mujahidin attacked a third position in (Kimar Khan) in Khowst on 1 August. During the attack, they killed 26 government troops and wounded 19 others. They also captured a quantity of Soviet-made Kalashnikov rifles.

Gandhi Visits Punjab; Discusses Accord

BK171630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Aug 85

[Excerpt] The prime minister has said that Punjab and Assam accords have proved that all problems can be solved through dialogue. Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the two agreements will strengthen our unity and integrity. He was speaking after laying the foundation stone of a 180-crore rupee integral coach factory at Husainpur in the Kapurthala District of Punjab this morning.

He said the Punjab accord has brought about a vast change in the situation in the state. The state has now entered a new phase of economic development. He appealed to the people of Punjab to forget the past and strengthen the forces of peace and amity for the progress of the state and the nation as a whole.

Making his first visit to the state after signing the Punjab accord, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the true credit for this should go to the people, who wanted a solution to the problem. He appreciated the courage of Sant Longowal and the Punjab people for restoring peace and normalcy.

The prime minister announced that about 5,000 youths of Punjab will be recruited in paramilitary forces soon. The poor people, who have been affected by the heavy floods in the state, will get an increased relief up to 1,000 rupees per family.

Comments on Punjab Elections

BK181623 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that the Punjab elections should be viewed as a rededication to the inspiring principles of the freedom struggle in which the people in the state played a stirring role. In an 8-point guideline regarding the elections in Punjab for his partymen, Mr Gandhi said that the campaign should be turned into a people's movement for unity, development, self-reliance for the great future that awaits Punjab and the whole of India. There can be no place for petty vituperation and name calling. No attempt should be made, whatsoever, to rekindle yesterday's passions.

Mr Gandhi said the Congress-I, which has played a historic role in cementing the bonds that unite different communities in the country, has to approach these elections from the basic standpoint of consolidating the forces of unity. Elections are not an end in themselves, but a means to an end — which is the building of a secular, democratic and socialist society.

Referring to the Punjab accord, Mr Gandhi described it as a signal triumph of the democratic process. The tension and strife of the last 3 years have yielded ground to the unconquerable urge of the Indian people for unity, solidarity and good will. The elections to the Lok Sabha and the state assembly will validate this fundamental political premise and provide yet another resounding affirmation of the commitment of all sections of our people to the unity and integrity of India.

The Punjab settlement, Mr Gandhi pointed out, is not an achievement of the Congress Party alone. Many political forces committed to the unity and integrity of the country have helped. Above all, the indomitable spirit of the Punjabi people has asserted itself beyond all temporary differences.

Elections 22 September

BK171443 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 17 Aug 85

[Text] Punjab will go to the polls on the 22d of next month to elect a new assembly. This was announced by the Election Commission in New Delhi this evening. Elections for the Lok Sabha seats from the state will be held simultaneously. The last date for filing of nominations will be the 30th of this month. Scrutiny will be held next day. The last day for withdrawal of nomination papers will be the 2d of September. Notification for the elections in the state will be issued on the 23d of this month.

According to a press note issued by the Election Commission, the decision to hold elections in Punjab has been taken after consulting the government regarding the present situation and taking in view the constitutional requirements. The state is under president's rule at present. The assembly is to automatically dissolve from the 25th of June on completion of its 5-year term.

Governor Assures Cooperation

BK181612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr Arjun Singh, has assured his cooperation to leaders of all the political parties in organizing the forthcoming elections in the state in a free and fair manner and to the full satisfaction of all concerned. In a communication addressed to them today, Mr Arjun Singh said on his part, he will do everything possible to achieve this goal.

Longowal Calls Meeting

BK180859 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] The Akali Dal president, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, has called an urgent meeting of senior party leaders and district presidents at Village Longowal tomorrow. This is to decide the party's action in the light of the government's decision to hold elections in Punjab next month.

According to PTI, Mr Parkash Singh Badal, Mr G.S. Tohra, Mr Balwant Singh and Mr Surjit Singh Barnala would be attending the meeting, among others.

900 Sikh Army Deserters 'Rehabilitated'

BK180744 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] The Defense Ministry has announced that 900 army personnel who deserted their posts in the wake of the army action

in the Golden Temple have been rehabilitated within the army. Another 237 will soon be absorbed in the Defense Security Forces. It also said that all the 500 personnel tried and given minor punishment and now in reformatory will be assessed for their suitability for retention after completion of their terms of imprisonment.

A press release of the ministry issued yesterday, said the army has gone to the extent of adopting a reformatory role, which is an unprecedented act. This dispelled the impression that a huge number of army personnel have been subjected to court martial proceedings and severe punishment.

Giving details the release further says a total of 2,733 Sikh personnel are reported as having deserted from the units. The actual number that were found culpable after initial investigation was 2,606; 67 were killed in engagements with other troops and 30 were missing, presumably having found their way back home. It was pointed out that 172 persons were exonerated by the courts of enquiry. A total of 2,337 were found to be culpable of desertion or mutiny and allied offences. The extent of their guilt was assessed by the courts of inquiry. This was assessed by holding summaries of evidence in accordance with the military law.

The release points out that (?50) persons were charged by courts and sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment, ranging from 1 to 14 years of rigorous imprisonment and dismissed from service. This was, however, subject to review by the legal department of [words indistinct]. Three were found not guilty. Only one person has been sentenced to life imprisonment; 517 were given rigorous imprisonment of less than 18 months without dismissal or discharge; 770 were given summary punishment of 28 days imprisonment in military custody without dismissal or discharge and posted to other units; 237 were given 28 days imprisonment in military custody with discharge.

Those who were sentenced to rigorous imprisonment of less than 18 months without dismissal or discharge have been sent to two reformatories which have recently been opened at (Thirumalagiri) in Hyderabad and at Golcondo. The aim of opening these reformatories is to ensure that such personnel do not get exposed to criminal elements and after their term in the reformatory they are fixed to be posted back to the army.

Reportage, Comment on Reaction to Assam Accord

Economic Aid Announced

HK161358 Hong Kong AFP in English 1316 GMT 16 Aug 85

[Text] New Delhi, August 16 (AFP) — India today announced large economic aid to Assam, as police there said bomb blasts killing three people marred jubilation at the political settlement of an anti-immigrant campaign.

Interior Minister S.B. Chavan told Parliament here that a private oil refinery would be set up in the poor northeastern state and an institute of technology built. The government was committed to raising the state's low standard of living and would place special emphasis on industrialization, and education in science and technology through setting up national institutes, he said.

Meanwhile, a bomb explosion in Tezpur near the state capital of Guwahati killed three people and injured four, marring general celebration at the accord announced yesterday by Premier Rajiv Gandhi, police said. It was not known if the bombs, left in a bag by a shop, were connected with the accord reached with Assamese leaders who have sought the explusion from the state of immigrants, mainly from Bangladesh and Nepal, PTI said.

A police spokesman said the bombs went off after someone tried to force open the bag in the town, some 120 miles (200 kilometers) north of Guwahati. "We cannot say immediately if it is directly linked to the accord, but then it might be [the] outcome of some frustrated people", the spokesman told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. No one had claimed responsibility.

In Guwahati the agreement which ends a six-year-old often bloody campaign was initially greeted with festivity, but later in the day the celebrations took an ugly turn with students forcing trucks to carry them through the streets. A police source said the students forced several truck drivers to carry them and compelled several petrol stations to give free gas. The students came out of schools and colleges and took to the streets in processions to celebrate, witnesses said. But though the festivity was in good humour, police patrolled in large numbers and reminded people that a ban on the assembly of more than four people in public places was still in force here. The announcement was made through public address systems, witnesses said.

In New Delhi, the minister said there would be full protection of the linguistic and religious minorities settled in the state. They would enjoy all existing rights and their interests would be fully safeguarded.

Some opposition leaders in both houses criticised the government for not taking the opposition into its confidence before announcing the accord, as was done when an agreement with Sikh autonomists in Punjab was announced last month.

Leaders Urge Acceptance

BK170511 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Aug 85

[Excerpts] The Assam agitation leaders have appealed to the people of the state to accept the historic accord in a spirit of amity and humility. In a joint statement they said peace and harmony must be maintained without playing into the hands of the disruptive forces.

The signatories to the statement are the president of the All Assam Students Union, Mr P.K. Mahanta; its general secretary, Mr B.K. Phukan; and the convener of the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad [People's Action Council] Biraj Sharma. The All Guwahati University Inter Law College president, Mr Pauran Kumar Barua; and the organizing secretary, Mr Keshavramnath, have also hailed the accord.

West Bengal Leaders on Accord

BK170946 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Aug 85

[Text] The West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, has said that the infiltration from across the border has to be stopped. At the same time, those who are living in the country for a period of time cannot be sent back all of a sudden. Mr Basu was commenting on the Assam accord in Calcutta. Referring to the cutoff year having been set at 1986, Mr Basu expressed apprehension of large-scale influx of people from Assam to West Bengal.

The Forward Bloc leader, Mr Chitta Basu, felt that the cutoff year may cause complications as a large number of people may be affected.

Minister To Meet Opposition Parties

BK180755 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] The Assam chief minister, Mr Hiteswar Saikia, has called the meeting of all opposition parties in Dispur today. He will have consultations with the opposition leaders over the implementation of the Assam accord and holding of Lok Sabha and assembly elections in the state.

In a broadcast over All India Radio, Guwahati, and Dibrugarh, the chief minister has said that the Assam accord has widely been accepted by the people of the state. It has covered the common aspirations of all concerned. Mr Saikia expressed his satisfaction over the withdrawal of the agitational activity by the movement leaders. The Assam Congress legislature party which met in Dispur yesterday has also welcomed the accord.

20 Ministers Resign

BK180857 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] In Assam, 20 ministers have resigned from the Saikia ministry. They include 9 cabinet ministers and 11 ministers of state. The ministry has a strength of 37. The governor, Mr Bhishma Narain Singh, has accepted the resignations on the advice of the chief minister. Earlier, Mr Saikia called on the governor and had a 45-minute meeting with him. They discussed the political situation in the state following the Assam accord.

Caretaker Government Formed

BK181244 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] The Assam assembly has been dissolved. The governor, Mr Bhishma Narain Singh, today dissolved the assembly following recommendations by the chief minister, Mr Hiteshwar Saikia. Disclosing this in Guwahati today, Mr Saikia also said that a new caretaker ministry has been formed under his leadership. There will be 10 cabinet ministers and 7 ministers of state. Earlier, 20 ministers resigned from the Saikia ministry.

Gujarat Accord Reached; Strike Ends 19 Aug

BK181628 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] An agreement has been reached between the Gujarat government and the striking employees of the state government and panchayat to end the 73-day old strike on the roster system of promotion in government and semi-government services. The declaration about the agreement was made a short while ago in Gandhinagar by the state chief minister, Mr Amarsinh Chaudhari, and U.C. Chavan, convener of the federation of the state government employees.

Following the agreement, the employees have withdrawn the call for Gujarat bundh [strike] tomorrow and all their programs of agitation. The office bearers of all the unions and associations of the employees and gazetted officers have jointly appealed to all the employees and officers to report for duty tomorrow. They have also appealed to the employees to cooperate in the work of examination of 10th and 12th standards which are to begin tomorrow.

Both sides have expressed complete satisfaction over the agreement reached today. The agreement will be formally signed tomorrow.

Court Cases Withdrawn

BK190945 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 19 Aug 85

[Text] In Gujarat, an agreement on various demands of the employees of the state government and panchayat has been signed between the government and the leaders of the employees at Gandhinagar. The employees have already withdrawn their 73-day old strike from this morning as part of the agreement. The 14-point agreement was signed today by leaders of various unions and associations of the employees and chief secretary of the state department and two other senior officials. The government has accepted all the 11 recommendations of the chairman of the Sadwani committee appointed some time ago on the roster system for promotion in government and semi-government services of the state subject to certain clarifications.

Sixty percent of strike period will be treated as a special leave. The decision about the remaining 40 percent of the leave period was left to the chief minister. There will be no victimization of employees on account of the strike. All the cases of suspension, dismissal et cetera will be withdrawn. Criminal cases before the courts except those involved in violence will also be withdrawn.

PRC Industry Minister Holds Talks on Iron Ore

BK161359 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 16 Aug 85

[Text] India and China will discuss further on the export of iron ore from India to that country. This was stated by the commerce minister, Mr V.P. Singh, in the Lower House of Parliament today. He said the Chinese minister for industry, now on a visit to India, has had talks on the matter. The minister of state for

commerce, Mr P.S. Sanga, told the House that India's iron ore exports have gone up by 15 percent.

Recently a long-term agreement was concluded with Japan for the export of 30 million tonnes of iron ore valued at 7.2 billion rupees.

Delhi Reports PRC Praise for Gandhi

BK170513 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Aug 85

[Text] China has said the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has proved his political acumen at home and has made a new diplomatic move to ease the South Asian situation to enhance India's role in international affairs.

Junejo Receives Vote of Confidence on Martial Law

BK190844 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 19 Aug 85

[Text] The National Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution today congratulating Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo for making a declaration on 14 August in which he said that martial law will be lifted before 1 January next year. The resolution, tabled by Haji Saifullah Khan, says that the prime minister's declaration is in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the Pakistani people and the house fully supports the declaration by the prime minister.

Mian Mohammad Zaman introduced an amendment in the resolution under which the house once again expressed confidence in the prime minister's leadership. The house paid great tribute to the prime minister for making this timely and courageous declaration.

Replying to the resolution, the prime minister thanked the members of the assembly for expressing confidence in him. He recalled that on 24 March, when the house gave him a vote of confidence, he had said in unambiguous words that martial law and a civil government cannot go together. He said he is reiterating those words today. He said right from the beginning that the (?necessary) legislation should be drafted for lifting martial law. He suggested a public meeting was an appropriate forum for announcing a program for lifting martial law. He said that, God willing, martial law will not exist in the country on 1 January 1986.

The prime minister said the members should sincerely and seriously consider the 29-member committee report to guide him and the government so that the necessary legislation is passed as soon as possible. He added that the adoption of the resolution has greatly encouraged him and, God willing, martial law can even be lifted from 1 January 1986 provided necessary legalities are completed.

The National Assembly speaker, Mr Fakr Imam, also congratulated the prime minister on the complete confidence expressed by the house in him. Many members in their brief speeches paid tribute to the prime minister and the house expressed its happiness with the prime minister getting a fresh vote of confidence by giving him a standing ovation. Later, the house resumed debate on the future political structure of the country.

Official Discusses Glacier Clashes With India

BK171552 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Aug 85

[Excerpts] The National Assembly disposed of a number of adjournment motions today. During question hour, the parliamentary secretary for defense, Retired Colonel Herbet, said that four rounds of meetings between the military representatives of Pakistan and India have been held since 1984 to date on the issue of Siachen Glacier in the northern area. At one of these meetings in February, efforts were made to discover the reasons for problems on the control line and steps were taken to remove the tension.

He said Pakistan is not in any way ready to accept India's stand that the areas under occupation of the two countries be considered as the territories of the occupying country and that this should be regarded as the control line. He said India, on the other hand, is not ready to accept the cease-fire line.

He said after the emergence of this conflict in April last year, forces of the two countries exchanged small arms fire and artillery shellings at several places. In these clashes, 18 Pakistani soldiers were killed and 22 wounded while India suffered heavy casualties. At least 70 to 80 Indian (?military) personnel were killed or wounded. Pakistani forces gained control over frontline positions and adequate preparations have been made in this regard.

The parliamentary secretary for defense said Air Force planes of the two countries have been maintaining surveillance in their respective areas but there was no aerial attack from either side.

BANGLADESH

Ershad Attends Reception Hosted by PRC Ambassador

BK170306 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0130 GMT 17 Aug 85

[Text] President Hussain Mohammad Ershad attended a reception hosted in his honor by the Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh, Mr Xiao Xiangqian, in Dhaka last night. It was also attended by Begum Raushan Ershad; the foreign minister, Mr Humayun Rashid Chowhury; and members of the president's entourage during their recent visit to China.

Foreign Ministry: No Comment on Assam Agreement

HK161558 Hong Kong AFP in English 1545 GMT 16 Aug 85

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 16 (AFP) — Bangladesh today declined comment on an agreement reached by New Delhi and political leaders in India's Assam state on immigrants there, some of whom are from Bangladesh, but said it would analyse the accord.

"It should not affect us as far as it is an internal affair of India," a Foreign Ministry official said. "But we will have to closely analyse the agreement before we can comment," once details of it were received, he added.

The agreement announced by Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi yesterday ends a bloody campaign by indigenous Assamese against Bangladeshi, Nepalese and other immigrants.

The official said that relations between Dhaka and New Delhi were very friendly and the two governments wanted to resolve all bilateral issues, including the problem of sharing water from the River Ganges, through negotiations.

He said Bangladesh was opposed to the planned barbed wire fence that India wanted to put up along its border with Bangladesh, and ruled out any infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals into Assam. The migrations of 1947, at the time of the partition of the Indian Subcontinent, were a "two-way" affair, he added. He also said that all Bangladeshis who had crossed into India during the independence war of 1971 had come back after the war. The then Indian Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, had stated that they had done so, he said.

SRI LANKA

Reportage on Collapse of Talks With Tamils

Colombo Denies 250 Killed

HK180726 Hong Kong AFP in English 0721 GMT 18 Aug

[Text] Colombo, Aug 18 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan government today flatly denied that troops yesterday killed up to 250 Tamil civilians near Trincomalee, an allegation cited by Tamil separatist groups as they walked out of peace talks in Bhutan.

The Tamil report of a massacre near the east coast town was a "total lie calculated to mislead world opinion," and provide an excuse for the groups' pullout yesterday from the talks, officials here told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. Meanwhile, sources said here today that despite the apparent breakdown of the talks, top-level separatist leaders planned to go to Bhutan imminently.

The separatist groups yesterday also cited the killing by troops Friday of Tamil civilians at Vavuniya, in central north Sri Lanka. Tamil sources here said 100 people died there, while security forces put the figure at 23 and Tamil sources in India at 250. Tamil sources said here that security forces yesterday killed 200 to 250 Tamils at Sambaltivu village near Trincomalee. Together with "Sinhalese thugs," they "went into the village and forced the inhabitants to queue on the roadside and shot them dead," the sources said.

The military coordinating officer of the Trincomalee District was quoted in the press today as saying the Sambaltivu village report was a "palpable falsehood".

THE SUNDAY OBSERVER quoted official sources as saying the militants wanted to "destroy the Indian-initiated peace talks at any cost." The allegation was the latest of several by both sides following a ceasefire declared June 18, followed by a first round of Thimpu talks last month.

(In Madras, southern India, Tamil sources yesterday said the six Tamil groups at the talks had also yesterday rejected autonomy proposals put forward by Colombo as not going far enough.)

India has urged Sri Lanka not to react too strongly to the Tamil walkout, diplomatic sources here said.

The Indian envoy here, J.N. Dixit, called on President Junius Jayewardene last night having asked for an urgent meeting to impress on the government that India was doing everything to get the talks back on the rails, they said. India hopes the Tamils will return to the negotiating table tomorrow, the sources said.

Indian Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari, who has been playing a pivotal role in talking to both sides and keeping them talking to each other, was expected to stay in Thimpu for a few more days, the sources said. He was earlier expected to return to New Delhi today having laid the ground work for another week of discussions.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel told a provincial audience yesterday that if the peace talks fail the government must be prepared for war, the island newspaper said today. It quoted Mr. de Mel as saying that 30,000 Sinhalese families had fled Trincomalee after threats by militants.

Tamils Call Off Cease-Fire

NC181119 Paris AFP in English 1105 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Excerpt] New Delhi, August 18 (AFP) — Tamil separatists in Sri Lanka announced today that they were calling off a two-month cease-fire, and that they would soon launch a military operation, separatist sources in Madras, India, said today. "The

12-week-old accord had ended on August 18 (today)," a Tamil spokesman told PRESS TRUST OF INDIA [PTI].

The call to end the truce was made by the Eelam National Liberation Front, which represents four Tamil separatist groups. The ending of the cease-fire came after peace talks in Thimpu in Bhutan failed, PTI said. Tamil representatives walked out of the talks yesterday, citing two incidents Friday and yesterday in which they said up to 500 people had been killed by Sri Lankan troops. "The truce has no relevance now," the spokesman said.

Earlier today, in Colombo, Sri Lankan officials asserted that Tamil leaders would resume peace talks with the Sri Lankan Government today in Bhutan. But Tamil sources in India said that all six Tamil groups involved had decided to break them off to protest civilian killings.

In Colombo, Minister of State Anandatissa de Alwis said the talks would resume. Diplomatic sources said the shift had been brought about by Indian mediation. This was also disputed by sources in one of the groups involved, the Tamil Eelam National Liberation Front sources.

In Madras, the sources said "heated arguments" by Indian Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari yesterday to persuade them and the other Tamil groups to return to the talks had failed, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA said. The agency added that the Tamils had said they would not return to the talks unless Colombo put forward "substantial new proposals," PTI said.

Mr. de Alwis also denied separatist allegations that security forces yesterday slaughtered 250 Tamil civilians at Sambaltivu village near Trincomalee, on Sri Lanka's east coast. The Tamil delegates yesterday cited that incident, and another attack that killed 100 Tamil civilians the day before at Vavuniya, as they walked out of the talks in Thimpu, capital of the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan.

De Alwis on Talks Resumption

BK181214 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] Explaining the situation with regard to the walkout by Tamil groups at the Thimpu peace talks, the minister of state, Dr Anandatissa de Alwis, told a news conference today that it is clear from the sequence of events that the rumor relating to the massive killings of civilians by the armed forces at Vavuniya had been deliberately spread in order to break off the talks at Thimpu.

However, he said that it was expected that the leaders of the Tamil groups would arrive in Thimpu today with a view to participate in the talks. He pointed out that it was significant that the false rumor about the Vavuniya incident was so timed as to prevent the leaders from attending the talks.

(?Stating) the sequence of events prior to the walkout Dr de Alwis recalled the statement made by the government with regard to three of the four principles put forward by the Tamil groups. It was the government's view that these principles were in truth the reaffirmation of the demand for a separate state. Several of the Tamil groups had replied to the government's statement and had demanded a clear response from the delegation representing the Sri Lanka Government that it accepted the six Tamil groups at the Thimpu talks as being the sole representative of all the Tamil people of Sri Lanka. After a short recess the government delegation stated that while it could not accept that the Tamil groups present at the talks represented all the Tamils of Sri Lanka, there was sufficient representation of the Tamil people to enable the talks to proceed with a view to a settlement being reached.

According to Dr de Alwis, at this point the Tamil groups had requested a postponement of the talks for the following day to consider their position. The talks were resumed on Friday the 16th and Dr H.W. Jayewardene, QC [Queen's Council] stated that both sides were primarily interested in arriving at a solution and that the holding of the talks was in itself a recognition of the fact that there was sufficient representation as would enable a permanent solution to be reached.

The government proposals for the structure of the state national unit of a participatory system of government was then outlined and the talks were adjourned for 0930 [0400 GMT] on Saturday, that was, yesterday. On Friday night, the Sri Lanka Government delegation had received information of a rumor that there had been a major incident in Vavuniya in which 21 persons had been killed and that 100 Tamil civilians had been killed as a reprisal by the armed forces. The government delegation was then informed that a meeting fixed for Saturday had been postponed at the request of the Tamil delegations. When the talks resumed at 1600 yesterday the leader of the government delegation read out a telex message from Colombo (?disclosing) that although an incident had occurred in Vavuniya, it was totally incorrect to state that the armed forces had gone on a rampage.

Thereafter, a joint statement on behalf of the Tamil groups was read out by the representative of the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. This joint statement rejected the proposals of the Sri Lanka Government delegation as unacceptable as they did not meet the political aspirations of the Tamil nation. The statement also reiterated that any proposal must conform to the four principles as laid down by the Tamil groups if they were to be acceptable.

Another statement read out by the representative of PLOT [People's Liberation Organization of Tamils] alleged that government had violated the terms of the cease-fire and that the armed forces had been running amok in Vavuniya. He said that this was proof that the Sri Lanka government was seeking a military solution and that it was farcical to continue the talks in Thimpu. He further stated that their participation at the peace talks had been rendered impossible by the conduct of the Sri Lanka state violating the cease-fire agreement which constituted the fundamental basis of the Thimpu talks. At this point, all the delegations of the Tamil groups walked out of the conference room. Commenting on this situation, the minister of state, Dr Anandatissa de Alwis, pointed out that the true position is that it had been the Tamil terrorists who had repeatedly violated the cease-fire since [words indistinct]. There had been 114 killings and over 300 armed robberies by the terrorists.

Train Hijacking Thwarted 17 Aug
BK181103 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] Railway authorities were able to prevent an attempt made by the terrorists to hijack a train from Talaimannar to Colombo last night. Reports say that two groups of terrorists had entered the train when it was nearing Mannar station. One group had entered the guard room, while the other entered the engine room. The terrorists had then tried to link up an open wagon carrying a (?jeep) onto the main train. They had then ordered the railway driver and guard to take the train from (Chittikolam) to (Nadavatsiya) ignoring signals. The regional railways superintendent, Sushil Perera, told Roja Rosha Sebia of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation that by this time he had been informed of the incident and he had then made arrangements to have the train stopped. When the train was ordered to stop, the terrorists had escaped. Meanwhile, the terrorists also attacked a village on the (Madu) road and set fire to many shops opposite to railway station.

Night Train Services Suspended
BK161322 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Excerpt] All night mail trains in the [words indistinct] have been cancelled with immediate effect. The minister of transport, M.H. Mohammad, in a statement explained the situation which led to this decision and said if the terrorist attacks continued unabated, the railway may be compelled to suspend all train services in the affected areas. The minister pointed out in his statement that no sooner the cease-fire was announced, he had directed the railways to resume normal services, including all night mail trains. It was expected that the terrorists would honor the cease-fire and [words indistinct] to return to normal.

37 Fishermen Killed by Tamils
BK181620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] The Sri Lankan information minister, Mr de Alwis, has said that 37 fishermen were found killed in the northeastern region of Trincomalee. The Sri Lanka Government has accused the militants of abducting them last week. A spokesman of the citizen's committee in Trincomalee says 11 Tamils including two children were killed in the city yesterday when security forces went on a rampage.

Security Forces Expect New Attacks
HK190716 Hong Kong AFP in English 0701 GMT 19 Aug 85

[By Neville de Silva]

[Excerpts] Colombo, Aug 19 (AFP) — Security foces today said they were braced for a fresh wave of Tamil separatist attacks, after Tamil groups yesterday called off a two-month old ceasefire and abandoned peace talks with the government. Top security sources said they were preparing to deal with hit and run raids, after more than 300 Tamils yesterday attacked a train killing more than 20 Sinhala civilians.

The national security council was meeting today chaired by President Junius Jayewardene to coordinate plans to deal with fresh attacks, the sources told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

(Announcing the end of the ceasefire yesterday, Tamil spokesmen in Madras, southern India, charged Sri Lankan troops with murdering some 550 Tamil civilians in two attacks since Friday.)

Officials here said the death toll Friday in a shootout at Vavuniya, in north central Sri Lanka, was just a total of 21 dead from both Sinhala and Tamil communities. They denied that the other alleged attack, near Trincomalee on the east coast, took place at all.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, a key figure in the government's military-political strategies on the ethnic issue, is in London at a seminar organised by the world federation of Sri Lankan associations, whose objective is to preserve the country's unity.

Meanwhile, diplomatic sources here said there was a good chance that the peace talks in Thimpu, capital of the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan, would resume today.

The six Tamil groups at the talks walked out saturday citing the alleged massacres of Tamil civilians. They also said Colombo's offers of more autonomy to Tamil areas did not go far enough.

India yesterday issued a statement through its envoy here, Mr. N. Dixit, that Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari was continuing to speak to both sides in Thimpu inan effort to restart the negotiations.

Informed diplomatic sources said that not all six Tamil groups attending the Thimpu talks were keen on the walkout. They said that while the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), and the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) were intent on breaking up the discussions, three other groups were ready to carry on. They are the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), the main Tamil Political Party; and two the Peoples Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOT) and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) [as received]. The sources told AFP that those three groups joined the walkout apparently to preserve a united stand with the others.

Tamils Leave Bhutan
HK190944 Hong Kong AFP in English 0917 GMT 19 Aug 85

[Text] Madras, India, Aug 19 (AFP) — Six Tamil delegates left Bhutan today for Madras, India, after the collapse of peace talks aimed at ending Sri Lanka's separatist crisis, a Tamil spokesman here said.

Others had stayed in Thimpu, capital of Bhutan, but only because they had been unable to arrange transport out of the

Himalayan kingdom, the Eelam National Liberation Front (ENLF) spokesman said.

Other sources here said the main Tamil political party, the Tamil United Liberation Frong (TULF) had nearly agreed to continue the talks with Sri Lankan Government delegates after their breakdown Saturday. But attempts to persuade them to do so by Indian Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari, who was also in Thimpu, had failed yesterday. The TULF was at the Bhutan talks with five Tamil groups waging a violent campaign for independence for the north and east of Sri Lanka.

Two of the six delegates who left today were from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the ENLF spokesman said. One each was from the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS), the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), and the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOT). They had abandoned the talks after "genocidal" attacks Friday and Saturday by Sri Lankan troops on Tamil civilians, he said.

He said the three-member TULF delegation was still in Thimpu, merely because it had been unable to arrange transport out. He said it would not resume the talks, which would anyway be unable to reach a settlement unless the five militant groups attended.

The ENLF groups LTTE, EPRLF, EROS, and TELO, but not PLOT. Some delegates from those groups were also still in Thimpu because of the lack of flights out.

The spokesman said Sri Lankan troops had rushed reinforcements to Vavuniya and Trincomalee districts where troops allegedly killed more than 550 civilians totally on Friday and Saturday respectively.

(Colombo has said 21 people died in Vavuniya and denied any fighting near Trincomalee.)

Mr. Bhandari had told the TULF that Sri Lanka was prepared to return its troops to barracks and make new proposals, the ENLF spokesman said.

At one stage the TULF had tried to persuade PLOT to resume the talks, but later all the Tamil organisations decide to withdraw from them. They said new talks could begin only if Colombo clearly presented its proposals beforehand, which Colombo's chief negotiator Hector Jayewardene had not done.

Other sources said Mr. Bhandari had persuaded Colombo to make proposals suggested by the Ceylon Workers Congress (CWC), a Tamil trade union, as a working basis for resumption of talks. The CWC, whose leaders, S. Thondaman, is a member of the Sri Lankan cabinet, had made the suggestions at Sri Lankan round table conference last year. They envisaged regional autonomy in the northern and eastern provinces with safeguards for the Moslem and Sinhalese minorities there. Under the scheme, sensitive subjects like maintenance of internal law and order and land policy, including state-aided land colonisation, would rest with regional councils. Sri Lankan citizenship would be granted to stateless Tamils and their descendants brought this century from India to work on tea plantations. The ancestors of most Sri Lankan Tamils arrived in the island centuries ago.

Tehran Bomb Injures 30; U.S. 'Agents' Blamed

LD181427 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug 18, IRNA — Thirty people were injured in a bomb explosion in southwestern Tehran Sunday and two of the wounded are reported to be in critical condition. Rescue workers rushed to the help of the victims after the explosion at 14:30 (11:00 GMT) in Babayan Street.

People gathered around the scene of the crime shouting slogans in condemnation of the Monafeqin and the agents of the United States who are believed to have planted the bomb in retaliation for the massive participation of the people in the presidential elections on Friday. The bomb, planted in a pickup van, damaged sixteen cars and broke windows within a 150 meter radius. Fifteen of the wounded have been hospitalized in the nearby "Loqman al-Dolleh" Hospital.

Further Details

LD181725 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, following the unprecedented participation of the people in the presidential elections, counterrevolutionary agents affiliated to world arrogance exploded a bomb in Komeyl Street, formerly Babayan, in Tehran, at 1445 today, near Shahid Rezvan Park.

According to this report, the Central Islamic Revolution committee announced: The bomb, weighing 30 to 40 pounds was placed in a yellow Toyota. Fortunately, on one was killed as a result of the explosion; eight passers-by were slightly injured.

40-kg Bomb Defused; Iraqi 'Agents' Implicated

LD171015 Tehran IRNA in English 0906 GMT 17 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 17, IRNA — A 40-kg-bomb, planted beside the building of the Ministry of Agriculture, in north Tehran, was defused Thursday, the Information Ministry announced Saturday. The bomb was installed by counterrevolutionary elements in a car which was parked beside the building, the announcement added. It noted that the bomb was planted by counterrevolutionaries and agents of the Iraqi regime.

Further Reportage on Pilgrimage in Medina, Mecca

Karrubi: 'Enemies' Threaten Unity

LD161406 Tehran IRNA in English 1209 GMT 16 Aug 85

[Text] Mecca, Aug. 16, IRNA — The imam's representative in charge of Iranian Hajj pilgrims, Hoj. Mehdi Karrubi Friday called for unity among Muslims and vigilance in dealing with plots aimed at undermining unity. Karrubi who was speaking to a group of Iranian Sunni theologians added that enemies of the Islamic revolution have invested in plots to spread discord among Muslims. "You can see the plots in Lebanon and in India as the leader of the Friday mass prayers in New Delhi, Imam Bokharai, told me."

Karrubi stated that the imam, in a letter to him, had stressed the importance of the issue and said Islam is the greatest danger for our enemies and seeing the massive demonstration with at least 70,000 pilgrims participating. They will double their seditious efforts. "We should play their own trick on them."

Referring to plots in Lebanon and efforts by Ayatollah Montazeri in restoring unity there, Karrubi said the efforts somehow played a role in silencing the clahses. "Israel was trying to create a religious war after its defeat, but the plots were foiled."

At the conclusion, Karrubi called on the theologians to work hard in order to revive the glorious days of Islam.

Meets With Indian Pilgrims

LD180917 Tehran IRNA in English 0906 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] Mecca, Aug. 18, IRNA — A group of Hajj pilgrims from Jammu and Kashmir State of India met and conferred with Imam's representative and head of the Iranian Hajj pilgrims, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi here Saturday. During the meeting, the Indian pilgrims gave a report on the situation of Muslims in Kashmir and informed Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi of their devotion to the Islamic revolution and Imam Khomeyni's leadership. They also asked the imam's representative to be permitted to participate in the battle fronts of the Iraqi imposed war against Saddam.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi praised their warm enthusiasm towards the Islamic revolution adding that there were sufficient forces at the fronts and there was not any shortage of manpower. He also urged the Indian Muslims to preserve their unity with the Sunni Muslims. The Hojjat ol-Eslam added that the expulsion of the Zionist forces from the sensitive regions of Lebanon was one of the achievements of unity among Muslims in Lebanon.

Afghans Seek Hajj Visas

LD181653 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA — About 1500 Afghan Muslims gathered opposite Saudi Arabia's Embassy here Sunday asking for the issuance of hajj visas to participate in the Great Islamic Hajj Congress.

One of the Afghan Muslims told IRNA correspondent that since the commencement of Hajj ceremonies is only seven days away according to Sunnis and five days by Shi'ite Muslims, then if the visas are not issued by the embassy "we would be denied participation in the congress."

He added that the Soviet-backed Karmal regime has prohibited hajj pilgrimage for Afghan citizens and no one from inside Afghanistan is able to participate in the ceremonies. However, he noted 300 Afghans have been granted hajj visas by the Saudi Embassy here and have travelled to Saudi Arabia recently. One of the officials in Iran's Interior Ministry told IRNA that as far as the Interior Ministry is concerned there are no objections to these Afghans going on hajj pilgrimage. They can request visas from Saudi Arabian Embassy with their passports in hand. The

embassy, quoting Saudi Arabia's charge d'affaires, Marvan Bashir al-Rumi said that the embassy's views have been made known to Iran's hajj and pilgrimage organization, although, it however, failed to elaborate when asked to do so by Iran's correspondent.

When the hajj organization was asked to comment on the embassy's views, the deputy governor of the organization Br. Movahhedi said that "no statements have yet been received from Saudi Arabia's Embassy in Tehran".

He added that all facilities for these Afghans have been provided and their going on pilgrimage rests with the embassy granting them visas.

Saudi Charge Summoned

LD181836 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] According to a Central News Unit correspondent, following the refusal by the Saudi Government to allow 1000 Afghan pilgrims to go to the holy House of God [Mecca], Interior Minister Nateq-Nuri summoned the Saudi charge d'affaires.

During the meeting, he said: The Saudi Government is duty-bound to accept all who have the physical and financial means to perform hajj ceremonies.

The Saudi charge d'affaires announced that he had reported the matter to his government and would convey the answer to the Islamic Republic authorities before the deadline for the departure of the pilgrims.

Pilgrims Vote in Medina

GF170800 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 17 Aug 85

[Text] Following their observance of Friday prayers at the Prophet's Mosque in Medina yesterday, Iranian pilgrims to the inviolable house went to polling stations to elect a new president of the republic.

In a dispatch from Medina, AFP said that around 100,000 [Iranian] pilgrims have arrived in Saudi Arabia out of 150,000 scheduled to perform pilgrimage this year.

Forty-six polling stations in Medina were allocated for these pilgrims so that they could vote.

IRNA said that the voting process was carried out quietly and no member of the Saudi security forces was seen inside the polling stations or around the buildings in which they were located.

Friday prayers were held earlier at the Prophet's Mosque in Medina and were attended by more than 300,000 Muslims of various nationalities. Although the worshippers quietly participated in these rites in hot weather, Saudi security forces, armed with machineguns, were watching the situation outside the mosque.

Mahdavi-Kani Sermon on Elections, Murphy's Tour

GF161532 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Aug 85

[Friday sermon in Arabic delivered by Ayatollah Mahdavi-Kani, member of the Council of Guardians, and Tehran Friday imam ad interim, at Tehran University on 16 August — recorded]

[Excerpts] Peace on you, brothers and sisters all over the world. There are four important issues I wish to address. The first is the issue of going to the polls. The Iranian people today go to the polling stations to elect a president of the republic. The participation of large segments of the Iranian people again demonstrates the support of the masses for the revolution and the Islamic republic.

If the enemies of the revolution, from both inside and outside, were practical converning these phenomena, they would reconsider their methods. The enemies of the revolution, with the help of their foreign masters, wanted to undermine the elections with sabotage and propaganda by discouraging people from participating. However, as usual, the people's presence has been a strong slap to the face of those persons and their masters. Those who have relied upon these persons must know that the enemies of the revolution are negligible and carry no weight [words indistinct].

Praise be to God. The bases of the Islamic Republic have been laid by the revolutionary masses. These masses are intelligent and vigilant. They have accurately supervised all activities and moves. The nation of Hezbollah, by their effective presence, will continue to aid and support the imam and the Islamic revolution.

In conclusion we say: Come, see the Iranian people closely. See what they want.

The second issue concerns the latest Arab conference in Casablanca, which was convened at the initiative of the sultan of Morocco [as heard] in order to return Egypt to the Arab world and to support the Camp David plan. The conference did not succeed in this.

The absence of the leaders of Libya, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Oman, and Egypt — particularly Saudi Arabia and Kuwait — plus the absence of any representation from Syria, Algeria, Yemen [PDRY], and Lebanon from the conference, plus the Libyan delegate's withdrawal, are all clear indications of the failure of this conference and the disappointment of those who convened it or relied upon it.

By exerting pressure on the Arab countries, using the king of Morocco, the United States wanted the Arab world to capitulate to the Camp David plan and return Egypt to the Arab world. However, the absence of the leaders of some countries, Saudi Arabia, for instance, and the absence of any representation from Syria, Algeria, Libya, and Yemen resulted in a change in the agenda: The policy toward Egypt was no discussed. The participants instead filled the void by presenting side issues. The resolutions of the summit are the best proof of what we say, and the best evidence that the summit did not succeed. The discussion of the Islamic Republic and the war being imposed on the Islamic Republic by Iraq was to cover up the conference's failures.

The Camp David accords and the return of Egypt to the Arab world were not considered suitable topics for discussion. Therefore, the only remaining issue to be discussed was the war imposed on the Islamic Republic by Iraq and whether some Arab countries should continue their relations with Iran while supporting the Iraqi regime. They justified the convention of the Casablanca summit to discuss this issue.

Instead of learning from past experiences, some Arab countries persist in trying to strike at our revolution through the summit's resolutions. Instead of denouncing the aggressor's works and ending their support for them, they have condemned the Islamic Republic. Instead of depending on their people, they have relied on others. Instead of condemning and boycotting the Iraqi regime so that the roots of corruption would be removed from the entire region, they have made resolutions to support it.

These countries must remember the words of the prophet, God's peace and prayers be upon him: Whoever digs a well for his brother will fall down it himself. By supporting the Zionist 'Aflaqi regime, they are digging a well for themselves. Instead of supporting Iran, they are supporting Iraq. Instead of fearing the Iraqi despotism, they fear Iran. If the impossible happened and Iraq won the war, it would become a threat, not only to the Islamic Republic, but to the entire region, because this regime is an agent of the Zionists and the United States. Victory for the Iraqi regime would provide a supportive platform for the Israeli threat to Arabs and Muslims. O Muslim brothers, if you wish to liberate Jerusalem, the liberation route is through Ka'bala as stressed by Imam Khomeyni.

The third issue of concern to the Islamic world is Murphy's visit to Jordan and his discussion of the Jordanian-Palestinian plan. Concerning this the Jordanian king seems to be playing a mediator's role. However, everyone knows that he is a pawn of the United States known for his loyalty to the United States. He has committed massacres against the Palestinian people. Despite this, there are still those who hold discussions with Reagan's representative, Murphy, and through this agent with the Palestinians and those who represent the Palestinians. Meanwhile, the United States cannot and will not hold discussions with the Palestinians because they have not officially recognized Israel.

The proposed negotiators must be acceptable to and supported by the United States and Israel. Who is this Arab and Palestinian baseness and ignominy aiding? Can the United States act as a reformist and regain Palestinian rights while it is the cause of the current problems? Notice the steps the Zionist enemies have taken: They have appointed representatives who support them in order to force the Palestinians to officially recognize them. Thus the Palestinians become vulnerable to the claws of their Zionist enemy.

These negotiations have been going on in vain for more then 30 years. So why are they conducting political negotiations with the occupiers who are the true enemies of Palestine? They rely upon those who have kindled the war inferno against them. I do not know why the Palestinians accept this conspiracy. Why do they accept debasement and insults? Why do the Palestinian people and our Palestinian brethren not object to this work?

Montazeri Meets Afghan Sunni, Shi'ite Clergy

LD171436 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Aug 85

[Excerpt] The Central News Unit reports that while [words indistinct] unity is implemented among the clergy and the Muslim and resistant Afghan groups, and while the provocations of the agents of colonialism and expansionism aim to create factionalism in the ranks of Muslims in some of the regions of Pakistan, a group of Sunni and Shi'ite Afghan clergy met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri and expressed their readiness to strengthen Islamic unity vis-a-vis the blasphemy front.

At this meeting the Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, while expressing his thanks and praise, referring to the problems which the most noble prophet and members of his lofty family faced at the dawn of Islam, and comparing this situation with the present situation of the Islamic Revolution, stressed: In the present circumstances in which the enemies of Islam have invested so much time and effort to divide Muslims, the preservation of unity between the clergy and militant ulema and the resistant Afghan groups, both Sunnis and Shi'ites, against the blasphemy front constitutes one of the most important duties. The exacerbation of issues related to differences from any side means that the enemies of Islam will benefit from the situation. He noted: Of course, occasionally both sides carry out dissension-sowing and half-baked actions which should be disregarded. These actions are undertaken either because of intense religious fundamentalism, or they are the result of provocations from certain quarters. But the ulema of Islam and outstanding Muslim figures, whether Shi'ite or Sunni, must try to prevent these kinds of activities from disrupting the unity among Muslims against the enemies of Islam, world blasphemy and Zionism.

Addressing the ulema and resistant Afghan groups, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri stressed: The ulema and those responsible for the groups are aware that, God forbid, they must not -- in order to free themselves from the oppression of the Eastern superpower -- move toward the oppressions of the United States and other similar powers, because there is no difference between East and West. Today all of them have formed a united front against Islam, Muslims and the progress of the Islamic movement in the world, and we might fall into the oppressive traps of one side in an effort to free ourselves from the traps of the other.

Musavi Discusses Future of DRA at Cabinet Meeting

LD190846 Tehran IRNA in English 0834 GMT 19 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug 18, IRNA — Islamic Republic of Iran's prime minister, Huseyn Musavi condemned here Sunday any decisions made concerning the destiny of Afghan Muslims without their participation.

Premier Musavi who was speaking at Sunday's cabinet ministers meet added that Afghan people after suffering one million martyrs and millions of refugees cannot tolerate the compromise between the superpowers throughout the world, especially when it concerns their fate. It is natural for Afghan Muslim people to maintain their struggle until establishment of an Islamic govern-

ment originating from the masses of people, the prime minister said.

At the cabinet meeting the interior minister, Hoj. 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri presented a report, reflecting the enthusiasm showed by the people during the presidential elections. He said also that the elections were held free of incidents.

Speaking on overseas participation in the presidential elections Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati reported that the U.S. authorities interrupted the voting by Iranians in some American cities. Velayati added that such provocation only reflects the superpowers fear of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Foreign Minister's Message to Libyan Counterpart

LD180640 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] Tripoli, Aug. 18, IRNA — The Libyan foreign minister, 'Ali 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki, received a message from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Saturday.

In a meeting with Iran's ambassador here Hojjat ol-Eslam Khonsari, Al-Turayki outlined outcome of his recent visits to the People's Republic of China and Japan. The two sides also discussed Iran's remarkable victories gained in the fronts of the Iraq-imposed war during recent "Ashura" operations, as well as international and regional issues.

Reportage on Presidential Election Results

Khamene'i Far Ahead

GF190516 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 19 Aug 85

[All figures as heard]

[Text] A report has been received from the election headquarters at the Interior Ministry on the latest results in the vote-counting for the fourth presidential election. According to this report, as of 2000 last night [1630 GMT], out of 14,200,297 votes counted, Mr Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i has received 12,164,366 votes, which means he has so far received the majority vote in the presidential elections of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr Seyyed Mahmud Kashani has received 1,398,485 votes, and Mr Habibollah Asgar-Owladi Mosalman has picked up 282,630 votes. The number of void ballots in this round of elections has been 354,456.

Further Reportage on Visit of Hungarian Minister

Signs Cooperation Document, Leaves

LD161359 Tehran IRNA in English 1216 GMT 16 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 16, IRNA — The Hungarian finance minister, Istvan Hetenyi signed a letter of understanding on economic and technological cooperation at Mehrabad International Airport here before leaving Tehran Friday. Seeing him off at the airport was Iran's agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali who spoke on the achievement of the joint commission of Iran and Hungary.

Zali told IRNA that according to the letter of understanding, value of trade between the two countries will increase to dlrs 200 million in a one-year period. Hungary will import one million tons of oil, tricot, minerals, dried fruits, drugs and raw materials of high quality. Iran and Hungary will also exchange experts in fishery and agriculture while also cooperating in seed improvement and other projects.

During his 3-day stay in Tehran, the Hungarian finance minister held talks with the Iranian prime minister and ministers of foreign affairs, energy, oil, health and agriculture which resulted in the signing of the letter of understanding.

The Hungarian delegation arrived in Iran in two groups, the first arrived Monday and was headed by the deputy foreign trade minister, and the second headed by the finance minister arrived Wednesday.

The joint commission of Iran and Hungary meets annually in Tehran and Budapest alternatively. The next session would be held in Budapest.

Agriculture Minister Praises Accord

LD171659 Tehran IRNA in English 1612 GMT 17 Aug 85

["Iran-Hungary Note of Understanding Termed Positive" — IRNA headline]

[Text] Rasht, Gilan Prov., Aug. 17, IRNA — Iran's Agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali stated Friday that the signing of a letter of understanding between Iran and Hungary, could have a positive effect on Iran's agricultural exports. The agreement enables the two countries to cooperate in agriculture and fishery development.

Zali said that the import of rice, wheat and cotton would be significantly reduced this year in order to support the country's farmers. On the improved situation of summertime crops, such as barley and citrous fruits compared to the years preceding the Islamic revolution, Zali said that the production of crops has doubled and that barley production has increased from 1.2 million to 2 million tons during the post-revolution years.

Tehran, CSSR Sign Trade Understanding

LD171807 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Aug 85

[Text] At the end of the visit paid by Minister of Industries Shafe'i to Czechoslovakia, a letter of understanding was signed between the two countries last night. On the basis of this letter, exchanges between the two countries next year will reach $400 million. Twenty percent of Iran's exports to Czechoslovakia will be non-oil goods and Iranian imports will consist of industrial machinery and the corresponding technical knowledge, and the raw material needed by Iran's industries.

Minister Returns, Comments

GF180740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] Minister of Industries Shafe'i, who had traveled to Czechoslovakia to expand bilateral industrial ties, returned to Tehran last night. He made the following comments on his trip to our correspondent.

[Begin Shafe'i recording] In the name of God, the compassionate and the merciful. This trip was made by a delegation comprising members of the Iranian Ministries of Industry, Heavy Industries, Mines and Metals, Trade and Commerce, and the Foreign Ministry. The trip successful. It resulted in the expansion of economic industrial and trade relations between the two countries.

We formed three experts' groups: an industrial group; a commercial group; and an agricultural and industrial food group. Agreements were reached during talks with various officials including the prime minister and the speaker of the CSSR People's Assembly, the speaker of the Federal Assembly, the ministers of agriculture and trade, and other officials.

We agreed to raise the level of trade between the two nations to $400 million, the highest level since the establishment of ties between the two countries. This is a considerable amount. Last year this figure was $135 million. Another important aspect of this protocol is that for the first time it was decided that 20 percent of Czechoslovakia's imports from Iran would be non-oil products. I feel this is a good indication of our relations with other countries. We hope for an increase in the trade of non-oil products.

The points of cooperation mentioned in the protocol with regard to industries included purchases of [words indistinct], cash registers, weaving machines, and a cloth weaving machine that is one of the most modern in the world. It was decided that we would take two of these machines to Iran so that we can test them for 1 year; if we achieve good results, we will import all the necessary technology.

The exchange of technology will not only continue in these fields but also in the fields of weaving machinery, spare parts machinery, as well as in spare parts technology. For each purchase made from Czechoslovakia, the technology also will be imported to utilize the machinery.

Useful steps were taken in the field of trade and economy. In the past we have often had problems in our dealings with Socialist countries because they cannot provide raw materials for our industries. However, our need for new materials is clear. We feel that if we are to expand ties with countries such as Czechoslovakia, they must meet this demand. This issue was discussed seriously, perhaps for the first time. When it comes to raw materials, they must provide a segement of our needs. Some details on this were mentioned in the protocol. In the alkaline and agricultural industries, our country has long-standing relations with Czechoslovakia. In the sugar and water industries and other agricultural and food industries, we reached some additional agreements.

As far as their political views are concerned, according to their officials and their prime minister, they are very similar to Iran's views as projected in international bodies. Concerning the imposed war and the circumstances in our country, especially with regard to the Islamic revolution, the Czechoslovak premier said: Your revolution is a strategic and important revolution and this is the way your enemies are going to treat it. They announced their readiness to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran in all fields. [End recording]

Iraqi Kurds Launch Anti-Iraqi Operations

GF190938 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 19 Aug 85

[Text] The Hezbollah of peshmerga last Thursday attacked the (Charka) base, located near the city of (Korato) in the governerate of Irbil, northern Iraq. Reports from northern Iraq add that 10 Saddamists were killed or wounded during the attack. A number of hardware depots were also destroyed when they caught fire and burned for several hours. The Hezbollah of peshmerga controlled the main road linking Mirgah Sur with (Korato) for the entire night.

Details of Operations

GF181012 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] As part of their struggle operations against the Saddamist regime, Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries recently launched a sudden and successful attack against a strategic base of Saddam's mercenaries in (Salman Sima) which lies on the main Dahuk-(Zalita) road. The revolutionaries captured the base after clashing with the Saddamist forces. Reports indicate that 12 Saddamists were killed in this clash and a number were wounded.

After capturing the base, the Muslim revolutionaries seized quantities of military equipment and weapons.

Another report says that several Ba'thist military centers in Shaykh Yusuf, (Karsa), (Qal'at Yatu), and (Silsansi) in the Shaykkhan area have also been attacked by the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries.

Army Vehicle Destroyed

GF181613 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Aug 85

[From: "Voice of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq" program]

[Text] A terrorist Saddamist patrol has attacked the village of Julayk in the north of Sahl (al-Zawr) in retaliation for the Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries' operations in this area. After the patrol looted houses and killed a number of villagers, it set fire to residents' houses on charges of collaboration with Muslim Kurdish revolutionaries.

Reports indicate that Kurdish Hezbollah peshmerga from the Al-Sulaymaniyah branch have planted a mine on the Khurmal

highway. The mine went off, destroying a truck loaded with Ba'thists and killing all its occupants.

Ground Forces Commander: War Technology Developing

LD190810 Tehran IRNA in English 0638 GMT 19 Aug 85

[Text] Shiraz, Fars Prov., IRNA — Commander of the Ground Forces Colonel 'Ali Seyyed-Shirazi said here Sunday that war technology is developing in Iran. Colonel Shirazi, in an inspection tour of military centers here, noted that some of the weapons manufactured in Iran had been examined during recent operations in the fronts of the Iraqi-imposed war, all proving good results.

Referring to recent operations in which a number of Iraqi planes and helicopters were downed, the commander said that since the Iranian combatants were fighting against falsehood, their resistance is much higher than that of the enemy forces.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Khark Attack 'Propaganda'

GF170910 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 17 Aug 85

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Under the heading "The AWACS Reveal the Lie," the newspaper *KEYHAN AL-'ARABI* writes [today]: The commotion made by Baghdad on its allegation regarding the destruction of Khark Island needs no official denial, as the timing of this artificial propaganda uproar clearly indicates Baghdad's abortive aims. The timing of this claim follows two important events: 1) the continuing, quick, and successful operations on the battlefronts; and 2) the renewed widespread and distinctive readiness to participate in the presidential elections.

The Saddamist regime — whenever it feels its end drawing near in the war which it has inflamed — is known not to hesitate to cover up its fatal weaknesses. The clear agency and press reports from the battlefronts about the noticeable collapse in the morale of its troops makes such cover up necessary. Furthermore, Saddam badly needs to distract attention inside Iraq away from the suffering, lack of security, and disorder, by issuing and magnifying such nonsensical allegations such as the Khark attack, or by threatening to renew attacks on secure cities. Moreover, 5 years of the imposed war are sufficient to illustrate the extent of the Islamic Republic's adherence to a policy of self-control vis-a-vis the threats to which international shipping may be subjected, and consequently, its evident ability to concentrate its energies on the battlefronts and to answer with proven firmness any attempt to harm its oil sovereignty.

However, with regard to those circles which did not identify themselves and to whom some agencies attributed statements that they do not rule out an Iranian reply in kind to the allegations that Khark has been hit, it is more appropriate for these circles to open their eyes and see that Iraq — after exhausting all its desperate attempts and threats to warn the GCC countries against rapprochement with the Islamic Republic of Iran and the abandonment of Iraq — is trying to revive its exhausted desire to upset security in the Persian Gulf.

We believe that the extent to which observers have ruled out that Iraq is capable of seriously threatening Khark Island -- such as the U.S. State Department which has its doubts and even denies that it believes that such an attempt could succeed -- especially since the AWACS send complete and instantaneous pictures of the operations. [Paragraph as heard]

Radio Iran Cites Employee

GF171522 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 17 Aug 85

[Excerpt] An Iranian oil company employee talked with Radio Iran by telephone last night. He called the Iraqi attack against Khark Island "devastating and a surprise" and also noted that there are no exact figures available on the damage inflicted. He confirmed that the island's oil terminal was completely destroyed and that the island's eastern terminal has also been damaged. The extent of this damage is not yet known.

He added: The attack against the eastern terminal, which accepts more oil tankers, is important because up to now it was out of range of Iraqi aircraft fire due to the presence of a powerful defense system. Iraqi aircraft had been unable to violate the eastern air space of Khark Island. This is the first time, after 5 years of war, that Iraqi aircraft has attacked this terminal. According to reports reaching the Oil Ministry, the terminal has been completely destroyed. Apparently the western terminal, which has not been seriously damaged, has always been within the range of Iraqi aircraft fire and they were able to attack it in the past. He added: All that I can tell you now is that Iranian oil exports, which dropped some 34 percent recently, will drop even further following the bombing of the Khark Island installation.

Our correspondent asked him about the drop in exports from Khark Island after the attack. He replied: It will probably drop to 400,000 barrels from 1.5 million barrels per day. He added: A group of experts were sent to Khark on Friday morning to access the damage. They were to attend an emergency cabinet meeting upon their return in order to give the cabinet an up-to-date report on the damage. If the eastern terminal of Khark Island is destroyed, the Islamic Republic will have a miserable future, since the government's most important program, the continuation of the war, will then face an impasse.

When asked for a forecast, he said: I cannot give you exact figures on the damage or on the economic and financial future of the Islamic Republic. As far as I know, some people were killed in the attack, but figures are not yet available. Colonel Delavar, the commander of the Khark Island air defense unit, has been arrested and imprisoned for negligence. Preliminary information indicates that four large oil storage units were set on fire at the start of the attack. The fires lasted several hours and were so severe that they could not be put out.

Tehran Cites Kuwaiti Report on Tanker

LD181103 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] According to a Kuwaiti report, marine sources in Kuwait announced today that an oil tanker has been attacked 40 km west of Qatar. The attacked tanker was flying a Belgian flag and was identified as *Naes Leopard*. It was carrying 45,700 tons of oil.

'Ashura III' Operations

LD161739 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Aug 85

[Text] According to a report from the Khatam ol-Anbiya Headquarters, the joint operational headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of its Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the self-sacrificing combatants of the Army of Islam, in continuation of their "Ashura III" operations which began at 0200 today with a thrust in the northern region of Faqqeh aimed at destroying the forces of the Ba'thist-Zionist regime of Baghdad, have succeeded so far in killing or wounding more than 650 Ba'thist troops.

Also in these successful operations, the combatants of Islam, especially the fighting forces of the Mobilization units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps from the cities of Tehran, Karaj and Varamin, by routing the 1st and 2d Battalions of the 108th Brigade of the 16th Division of the defeated army of Iraq, succeeded in killing a number of high-ranking Iraqi commanders and in capturing several of them, more than 35 of whom have been transferred behind the battlefront.

In these operations, a substantial part of the enemy military equipment, including two tanks, nine ammunition stores, two bridges, one loader, one vehicle depot and a large amount of engineering equipment were set ablaze and destroyed. Also, a large amount of military equipment and light and medium weapons together with an impressive amount of logistics and communications equipment in sound condition, was captured by the combatants of the monotheistic front.

Tehran Reports Communique

LD161744 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Aug 85

[Text] According to the communique of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, during the past 24 hours the mighty combatants of Islam, in addition to observing the movement of columns of vehicles and keeping watch over all enemy offensive activities by opening accurate and effective artillery and mortar fire, while reducing the enemy's effectiveness, killed and wounded more than a 100 of their troops and destroyed several vehicles, trenches and ammunition depots of the Saddamists.

In the western operational sectors, our combatants trained artillery and mortar fire on the positions and vehicle columns of the enemy, inflicting some losses and casualties on them. Also, in two instances, the patrol activities of the enemy in the environs of Nowsud and Sumar were detected and and smashed, thanks to the timely fire of our forces.

The combatants stationed on the southern operational fronts opened artillery fire and, while inflicting losses in materiel and casualties, succeeded in destroying an enemy bridge in the environs of Nahr-e Kayn and in demolishing combat-engineering equipment of the enemy and in preventing the infiltration of enemy patrol elements in the region of Eynkhosh.

Also, enemy intrusions in the air space over the Majnun Islands met with the alertness of the combatants of Islam and the enemy aircraft were dispersed through the fire of the air defense units.

During the past 24 hours, the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr were brought under long-range and sporadic enemy fire resulting in damage to four houses in Abadan. The air defenses of our combatants drove the intruding aircraft away. The Gendarmerie warriors, on the banks of the Arvand River, returned fire, reducing the combat-engineering activities of the enemy and killing or wounding a number of Saddamists and also destroying several trenches and several heavy vehicles of the enemy.

Tehran Reports Communique

LD171725 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Aug 85

[Text] According to reports from the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the combatants of Islam opened fire on enemy positions in (?Sarakan) region yesterday and destroyed five ammunition dumps, 40 vehicles and a number of entrenchments. More than 160 Iraqi soldiers were either killed or wounded. Enemy radar was about 80 percent destroyed and a machine gun of their artillery force was destroyed.

On the central fronts, exchanges of sporadic fire continued between our forces and the enemy, as a result of which nine slit trenches, two observation posts, two guns, one mortar launcher, two containers and seven enemy vehicles were destroyed. Two battalions of the Iraqi forces' 108th Infantry Brigade sustained heavy damage and casualties as a result of the operation the combatants of Islam launched in (?Kazzabeh) region yesterday, 45 enemy soldiers being captured by the forces of Islam.

In the exchanges of fire on the banks of Arvand River, the Gendarmerie units destroyed five slit trenches, one observation post and one machine gun emplacement belonging to the aggressors. One tractor trailer, two loaders and two ammunition dumps were set on fire.

Yesterday, as a result of the enemy's long-range fire aimed at Abadan and Khorramshahr, three houses in Abadan sustained some damage and one case of fire was reported in Khorramshahr.

Communique No 2,201
LD181647 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 18 Aug 85

[Text] Tehran, Aug 18, IRNA — Over 30 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded in northern fronts where their positions were subjected to heavy artillery fire of Iran's Muslim combatants over the past 24 hours, reported the Joint Staff Command here Sunday in its Communique Number 2201.

The command added that in artillery exchanges in the same fronts, enemy fire was silenced and 20 Ba'thist vehicles and tanks together with an anti-aircraft artillery unit as well as 10 bunkers and munitions depots were destroyed.

In western fronts more than 12 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded during exchanges of fire with Iranian forces, the communique said. It added that the Iranian fighters in Qasr-e Shirin opened fire on some Iraqi patrols attempting to infiltrate their positions forcing the enemy troops to flee.

Elsewhere, exchange of fire continued in southern fronts being heavier in Hoseyniyeh region, the communique said. The command added that Iran's Gendarmerie forces in the banks of the Arvand River opened fire on Iraqi personnel reducing substantially their activities. An undetermined number of Iraqi troops were killed or wounded.

Over the past 24 hours, the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr in Khuzestan Province were subjected to Iraqi long-range artillery fire which damaged six houses in Abadan.